

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

## **USE EXCLUSION (ACRE)**

**CODE 472**

### **DEFINITION**

Excluding animals, people, or vehicles from an area.

### **PURPOSE**

- To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to **protect**, maintain, or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources or minimize liability and human health concerns.
- **To temporarily exclude livestock and/or wildlife from areas where it is critical to protect, maintain, and/or establish/reestablish vegetation.**
- **To maintain enough cover to protect the soil resources from wind and water erosion.**
- **To maintain hydrologic resources.**
- **To increase natural beauty.**

### **CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

- On all uses where permanent or temporary use exclusion is needed.
- **In areas where herbaceous and woody plant establishment/reproduction, soil hydrologic values, existing vegetation (including trees), or aesthetic/recreation values need to be protected from damage by animals, people, or vehicles.**
- **Only if a barrier needs to be constructed and a natural barrier does not exist.**

### **CRITERIA**

Barriers shall consist of either natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, electronic and sonic devices, or signs.

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals, or people and not be a safety hazard.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.

To prevent accidents associated with the use of vehicles, barriers associated with roads and trails shall be adequately marked to safeguard human safety and minimize the risk of liability.

**The method, duration, and time of exclusion and the reason(s) for exclusion shall be identified.**

Comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation, and maintenance of this practice.

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Assess potential landowner and user liability before installing barriers.

Public use may be an issue in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

**NRCS, MT  
April 2001**

**Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.**

**NOTE:** This type of font (**AaBbCcDdEe 123..**) indicates NRCS National Standards.  
This type of font (**AaBbCcDdEe 123..**) indicates Montana Supplement.

Barrier type and design should account for:

- **Terrain;**
- **Type of livestock, wildlife, or use of area;**
- **Duration of exclusion;**
- **Size of area; and,**
- **Minimize impact to impair wildlife health and animal movement.**

Barriers should account for and minimize **impacts** on public safety activities such as fire control.

**Utilize natural features (i.e. when possible—sandstone ridges/bluffs) when designing the exclusion area.**

**Consider exclusion from/when:**

- 1. Areas that have a concentration of poisonous plants;**
- 2. Areas where sites (i.e., heavy metal) may pose a threat to the health of livestock and/or people;**
- 3. Bogs or dangerously swampy area;**
- 4. Mine shafts or abandoned wells;**
- 5. Trash and garbage disposal sites;**
- 6. Controlling erosion on fragile sites such as sand dunes when protection is needed from vehicular traffic;**
- 7. Limiting access to steep slide areas for safety and controlling erosion;**

- 8. Vegetative study areas;**
- 9. Springs and reservoirs;**
- 10. Recreation areas;**
- 11. Cropland or other land use areas where livestock grazing is prohibited or undesirable;**
- 12. Range or pasture to improve condition and production by excluding livestock grazing for specified periods following the use of accelerating practices such as mechanical treatment, brush management, and seeding;**
- 13. Improve water quality;**
- 14. Wetlands and riparian areas in low ecological status to improve condition by excluding livestock/wildlife grazing for specified periods;**
- 15. Shelterbelts and Windbreaks;**
- 16. Gardens and orchards.**

## **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

**USE EXCLUSION** (ACRE)

**CODE 472**

**MONTANA CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION / JOB SHEET**

**DEFINITION:** To exclude animals, people, or vehicles from an area.

**SCOPE:** This practice applies on the following conditions:

- On all land uses where permanent or temporary use exclusion is needed;
- In areas where herbaceous and woody plant establishment/reproduction, soil hydrologic values, existing vegetation (including trees), or aesthetic/recreation values need to be protected from damage by livestock, wildlife, people, or vehicles
- Only if a barrier needs to be constructed and a natural barrier does not exist.

**USE EXCLUSION RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Consider the needs of the area when designing use exclusion areas.
- Barrier type and design should account for:
  - Type of livestock, wildlife or use of area;
  - People or vehicle use exclusion
  - Terrain
  - Duration of exclusion
  - Size of area
  - Minimizing impact to impair wildlife health and animal movement

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:**

- Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.

## USE EXCLUSION—Specification Sheet

LANDOWNER

FIELD NUMBER

### PURPOSE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area
- ☐ To protect, maintain, or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources
- ☐ To minimize liability and human health concerns
- ☐ To maintain enough cover to protect the soil resources from wind and water erosion
- ☐ To maintain hydrologic resources
- ☐ To increase natural beauty

### EXCLUSION JOB SPECIFICATION

#### Method(s) (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- |                                     |                                   |   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> logs       | <input type="checkbox"/> boulders | <input type="checkbox"/> electronic and sonic devices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> vegetation | <input type="checkbox"/> fences   | <input type="checkbox"/> signs                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> earth-fill | <input type="checkbox"/> gates    | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____                  |

#### Time frame: (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ spring      ☐ summer      ☐ fall      ☐ winter      ☐ year-long

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of years (if applicable)

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for exclusion: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**JOB SKETCH**

Attached Plan Map

☐ YES☐ NO**ATTACHED SPECIFICATIONS**

314–Brush Management

☐ YES☐ NO

382–Fencing

☐ YES☐ NO

391–Riparian Forest Buffer

☐ YES☐ NO

528A–Prescribed Grazing

☐ YES☐ NO

548–Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment

☐ YES☐ NO

612–Tree/Shrub Establishment

☐ YES☐ NO

644–Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

☐ YES☐ NO

645–Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

☐ YES☐ NO**ADDITIONAL NOTES****APPROVALS:**\_\_\_\_\_  
NRCS Conservationist\_\_\_\_\_  
Job Class\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Producer\_\_\_\_\_  
Date**INSTALLATION CHECK:**\_\_\_\_\_  
NRCS Conservationist\_\_\_\_\_  
Date